



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 3, 2010
Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketor, David Shane, Steve Gabet, Mike Pettibone, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, James Edwards, and Daniel Elsener were present. Vicki Snyder and Neil Pickett were not present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Pettibone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Statement of the Chair

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Dr. Bennett said the Spotlight on Learning recognizes the Lebanon Community School Corporation for its cost saving efforts. He introduced Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent.

Dr. Taylor discussed the corporation's approach to reducing costs without sacrificing rigorous academic instruction. Employee wage freezes were instituted for non-certified staff; programs were consolidated; and action was taken to reduce utility costs. "Providing the highest quality educational programming and instruction regardless of the challenges is not only our professional obligation, it is my unwavering commitment to our staff and students," said Taylor.

Dr. Bennett discussed the Citizens' Checklist, approved by the Board in December as a tool to help other Indiana school corporations to realize similar savings. Dr. Bennett said the US Department of Education will announce on March 4, no later than 11:30 a.m., the states selected to be interviewed in the first round of Race to the Top. Indiana hopes to be one of the states selected in this first round.

V. Board Member Comments

Mr. Pettibone gave Board members a copy of a budget data sheet and discussed the funding cuts for K-12 education at Adams Central School Corporation and how those cuts are affecting education in Indiana.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

Travis DiNicola, Halics, presented public comments.

VIII. Discussion

Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the Citizens' Checklist of Cost Savings Measures for School Corporations. Mr. Rhodes said information on how this is being used is being compiled, and a report will be presented to the Board at the June meeting. In light of the revenue forecast that was just released, this is not over by any means.

The Governor's application for the Phase II of the stabilization dollars is now under review for approval.

Pete Miller, GEFP Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), discussed proposed changes to student instructional expenditure report. P.L.2-2007 directs the OMB to annually report the percentage of each Indiana school corporation's expenditures that are spent on student instructional expenditures. This is commonly known as the "Dollars to the Classroom" report. Mr. Miller said the OMB is seeking Board approval for some potential changes to its methodology before the 2008-2009 school year report is completed.

School corporation expenditures are classified into one of four categories:

- Student academic achievement expenditure.
- Student instructional support expenditures.
- Overhead and operational expenditures.
- Nonoperational expenditures.

IC 20-42.5-3-4 stipulates that the State Board of Education shall determine the type of expenses in each category. In March 1997 the Board approved an initial classification and defined **Student Instructional Expenditures** as the sum of

categories 1 and 2, and **Non-Instructional Expenditures** as the sum of categories 3 and 4.

The classification currently in place is inconsistent with the one used by US DOE National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). NCES breaks current expenditures into four types: Instruction and instruction-related, Student support services, Administration, and Operations. Nonoperational expenditures, such as capital expenses, are not considered current expenditures.

Board members asked what else it would take to achieve total alignment with the NCES and identified a need to convene organizations that were at the table the first time. After that the Board will consider final recommendations.

Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, discussed legislation and said this is the last week of the General Assembly. A lot of bills still are in play. Mr. Zaring also discussed a solicitation that DOE put out last year for proposals for year two of the virtual pilot school program. Those are due on Friday, March 5, and the DOE anticipates making an award the following week.

Mr. Zaring said next month the Hoosier Academy will come before the Board and provide a report on year one of its pilot operation.

Dr. Bennett said the Department has established the 2010 goals that DOE will pursue between now and the end of the year. In many instances, a lot of this will encompass a three year work plan and will be ongoing.

Dr. Bennett presented the 2010 goals and said the Department intends to implement an aggressive reform agenda that is embodied in our *Fast Forward* plan. Dr. Bennett said federal funding will not determine the nature of reform in this state. We intend to implement reform, regardless of whether we are funded or not.

Dr. Bennett discussed the following goals:

- Adopt college and career ready standards and assessments.
- Build robust data systems to improve instruction.
- Recruit, develop, retain and reward great teachers and leaders.
- Turn around lowest – achieving schools - provide technical assistance.
- Spur innovation, promote competition and freedom, and enhance educational options for students throughout Indiana education.
- Increase and make transparent, schools accountability for the academic achievement of students.
- Cultivate and promote world-class instruction that ensures academic rigor through targeted meaningful professional development.
- Ensure structural efficiency and sound operations within IDOE.

Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, gave an update on assessment issues and said we are in our third day of ISTEP testing. Good news has come from the field, and things are going well. The ISTEP window on open-ended items is March 1 – 10.

April 26 – May 5 is the test period for multiple choice tests, and results will be back electronically to the schools on May 27. The graduation qualifying examination window is the week of March 9-11.

For End of Course Assessments (ECA) the “late winter” (February 8 – March 5) window closes on Friday, March 5. The next ECA window is the “spring” window, April 26 – June 9, 2010. This is the window when the vast majority of our students take the ECAs. Cut scores will be set for Algebra I and English 10 in July.

Growth Model work continues on Phase II which should be released to schools and corporations this week.

Mr. Bruce discussed Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objective (AMAO) Performance Targets and said the US DOE has asked for some adjustments to these targets. The Indiana DOE conducted an AMOE target setting workshop with Dr. Ellen Forte and Dr. Sara Waring, EdCount, on December 16, 2009. During the workshop, school corporation representatives, Title III Directors, and teachers provided input and recommendations for revisions to the current performance targets. Based on those recommendations, the DOE has finalized the targets for 2010. Mr. Bruce said the new AMAO performance targets will be more rigorous but are attainable.

Mr. Zaring said the No Child Left Behind accountability workbook amendment request was submitted to the US DOE as a proposed means to make Adequate Yearly Performance determinations based on our new tests.

Technical assistance team visits have begun and will conclude March 19. A Board member will accompany DOE staff on each school visit. Following those visits, the DOE will proceed in developing the memorandum of agreement (MOA) for each school corporation involved.

Mr. Zaring said staff members in the information technology division have done some preliminary runs on the graduation rate audit. Looking at the statute, technically we are required to conduct a graduation rate audit of a school even though 100 percent of the students in the cohort are accounted for through the student test number system. The Department believes 100 percent accountability obviated the need for a paper audit.

Anna Shults and John Wolf, Literary Specialists, gave Board members a list of opportunity schools that will be invited to participate in the reading initiative *Read On Indiana!*

Ms. Shults also discussed the following initiatives:

- Expanding students grasp and knowledge of the five core components of reading instruction that is presented by the National Reading Panel.
- What affective early interventions do we need to have in place.
- What do we need to have in place prior to grade three.

- How can we strengthen reading instruction.

The second piece of the reading initiative will be professional development, which will focus on scientifically-based reading instruction aligned with students' reading goals and academic standards, assessment, interventions, and leadership.

Ms. Shults said the reading framework will be available online next fall for everyone.

Mr. Wolf discussed how the opportunity schools were chosen. Invitations to those specific schools will go out this month. Selection will be based on readiness and commitment.

Dr. Schauna Findlay, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, discussed the Common Core Standards. Indiana has agreed to adopt the Common Core Standards. A presentation to the Indiana Education Roundtable will be made in June, after a team has done an analysis on how these common core standards compare to Indiana's academic standards, for discussion and review. In August, the DOE will come back to the State Board with recommendation that the Board adopt the Common Core Standards as our state standards.

Dr. Denise Cox, Interim Director of Adult Education, discussed adult education funding formula elements. The current formula uses a base amount calculated on actual expenditures from 1992. Added to the base is a factor multiplied by the enrollment for the same time period from the previous year. The base for a school corporation may be reduced due to a decrease in reimbursement based on a decline in enrollments or under-spending. School corporations offering a new program currently are funded at \$10,000 each. Dr. Cox said the current formula does not address the focus of today's state adult education system. A new state funding formula will be proposed based on a number of factors

Dr. Cox said the Department would like to come back in April with a progress report and proposed funding allocations under the current formula.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

X. Action

A. Michele Walker, Assistant Director of Assessment, introduced Karen Stein, Alternate Student Assessment, and presented a request for approval of proficiency standards for the ISTAR assessment.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Pettibone moved for adjournment. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

